

b) is automatically adjusted in response to said mix minus signal and said talent signal in delayed form] as in claim 49 or 50 wherein in step c) includes automatically changing the amount of delay of said talent signal from said amount set by said human operator to match said first amount in response to changes in said first amount.

REMARKS

As suggested by examiner Harvey in the interview of December 5, 2000, amendments are made to the independent claims 1-3 and 20-22, to more clearly distinguish and point out the invention. The amendment brings out the featured absence of variable delay of the feedback signal which examiner Harvey agreed is not found in the prior art of record. Claims 4-19 and 23-39 have been amended to return them to their multiply dependent form. Previously ones of those claims had been objected to and were rewritten in independent form as suggested. These claims are believed allowable and favorable action in that respect is requested.

Claims which are not amended are reproduced for convenience.

Claims 40-53 are amended to specifically point out the feature of operator setting of the delay of the talent signal. The feature of operator setting of the delay in response to the expected delay of the feedback signal is also brought out in Claims 40, 42-44, 46, 49 and 50. These features are taught for example at page 12 lines 20-24 and page 14 lines 2-5. Claims 41, 45, 47, and 51 are amended specifically pointing out the feature of intentionally having only partial cancellation of the talent signal, thus leaving a residual amount of talent signal in the mix minus signal. This feature is taught for example at the last paragraph of page 13 and the middle paragraph of page 20.

Other amendments have been made to the claims to more clearly point out and distin-

ish the invention, for example by explicitly stating that the operator is a human operator, which one of ordinary skill in the art would understand from the specification and the ordinary usage of that term.

It may be noted that in Kirby of record the delay amounts of 21 and 22 are set in response to the automatic delay measuring system 10 and no operator setting or adjustment is suggested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendment/Reply in RCE of appn. S/N 08/824,496

TOTAL P.24